

Office of General Counsel

IO Location: WJC-North, Room 4010

Phone Number: 202-564-8040

Description/responsibilities

The Office of General Counsel (OGC) is the chief legal advisor to EPA. OGC lawyers provide legal counsel to EPA policymakers to implement the agency's statutory obligations. OGC attorneys provide legal support for the issuance of regulations, guidance documents and permits. In addition, OGC lawyers, together with attorneys in the Department of Justice and local offices of the United States Attorneys, represent the agency in court challenges to agency actions (such as regulations), appeals of enforcement cases, and Supreme Court litigation. OGC lawyers carry out these functions not only with respect to EPA's environmental programs, but also in connection with EPA's day-to-day operations, including entering into contracts, awarding grants, managing property, protecting EPA's intellectual property, and advising on records and information issues.

Logistics

- Senior Career contact/Phone Number – Jim Payne/202-564-0212 (o), 202-672-3727 (c), Wendel Askew/202-564-3987
- Field Office/Lab locations - None
- Staff: # of FTE - 227

Offices

- ***Air and Radiation Law Office (ARLO)*** - ARLO provides legal support for EPA to reduce threats to public health and the environment by cleaning up the nation's air and dealing with radiation issues.
- ***Civil Rights and Finance Law Office (CRFLO)*** - CRFLO provides legal counsel to EPA with respect to civil rights, equal employment opportunity, contracts, claims by and against the Agency, property, financial assistance, interagency agreements, and appropriations law.
- ***Cross-Cutting Issues Law Office (CCILO)*** - CCILO provides legal advice under numerous federal statutes, Executive Orders, and policies that affect all of EPA's programs, including the Administrative Procedure Act, Environmental Justice, the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, Indian law and Children's Health issues. The Office also provides international environmental legal expertise and handles legal issues arising in connection with the agency's scientific functions.
- ***Ethics Office*** - The Ethics Office oversees all aspects of the agency's ethics program, including the Standards of Ethical Conduct, conflicts of interest statutes, financial

disclosure, ethics training and the Hatch Act. It is responsible for ensuring the high ethical standards of EPA employees.

- **External Civil Rights Compliance Office (ECRCO)** - ECRCO is responsible for enforcing several civil rights laws which, together, prohibit discrimination on the basis of: race, color, or national origin (including on the basis of limited-English proficiency); sex; disability; or age, by applicants for and recipients of federal financial assistance from EPA.
- **General Law Office (GLO)** - GLO provides legal advice to the agency in the following areas: Information law, including Freedom of Information Act, Privacy Act and the Federal Records Act; Labor and employment law; and Intellectual Property law.
- **The National Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Office (NFO)** – NFO is the principal advisor to the EPA’s General Counsel in performing the functions of the Agency’s Chief FOIA Officer and assists the General Counsel to implement compliance with the FOIA.
- **Pesticides and Toxic Substances Law Office (PTSLO)** - PTSLO handles legal issues for the EPA programs that address pesticides and toxic chemicals, including implementation of the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act which substantially revised the Toxic Substances Control Act, and handles legal issues related to pollution prevention and the Toxics Release Inventory.
- **Solid Waste and Emergency Response Law Office (SWERLO)** – SWERLO provides legal support for the agency's hazardous and solid waste programs and cleanup initiatives.
- **Water Law Office (WLO)** - WLO provides legal support for agency programs that ensure drinking water is safe; restore and maintain oceans, watersheds, and their aquatic ecosystems to protect human health, support economic and recreational activities; and provide healthy habitat for fish, plants, and wildlife.

Selected Topics

- Selected Legal Topics and Litigation Cases
- Air and Radiation Law Office
 - Affordable Clean Energy Rule and Clean Power Plan Repeal Litigation
 - SAFE 1 (Withdrawal of California waiver for light-duty GHG/ZEV standards)
 - SAFE 2 (GHG light duty vehicle standards)
- Civil Rights and Finance Law Office
 - Flint Michigan federal tort claims act (FTCA) litigation
- Water Law Office
 - “Waters of the United States” rulemakings and litigation
 - Clean Water Act 401 rule litigation